

and a half years. He then entered the university and following his graduation he returned to New Hampton, where he entered into partnership with his former preceptors, thus becoming a member of the law firm of Springer, Clary & Condon. In 1906 he was elected to the office of county attorney of Chickasaw county, in which capacity he efficiently served for four years. During this time, or in 1909, the Darrow Brothers Bank was converted into the Darrow Trust & Savings Bank and Mr. Condon took a prominent part in its reorganization and was later associated with the institution as cashier until 1914. In the meantime he retained his active association with the law firm of Springer, Clary & Condon. In 1912 Mr. Springer was elected to the bench and the firm became Clary & Condon, the association being thus maintained until the death of Mr. Clary in 1916, since which time Mr. Condon has practiced alone. He enjoys an extensive clientage and is one of the best known members of the northern Iowa bar, his practice being of a most important character.

In 1914 Mr. Condon was united in marriage to Miss Ida Kelson, of New Hampton, a daughter of Ole and Belle Kelson, the former now deceased, while the latter resides in New Hampton. Mr. Condon is a democrat in his political views and served for a number of years as chairman of the democratic county central committee. He is now a member of the city council and has occupied that position on several different occasions. He belongs to the Catholic church and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He likewise has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and with Charles City Lodge, No. 418, B. P. O. E. Mr. Condon is a man of wide acquaintance in Chickasaw county, occupying a prominent position at the bar, exercising considerable influence in citizenship and at all times commanding the respect and confidence of those with whom he comes in contact.

P. J. COMMERFORD.

P. J. Commerford, who is engaged in general merchandising at Jerico, Chickasaw county, has for the past fifteen years served as treasurer of the Jerico Creamery Association and throughout his life has been an active and influential factor in the business development of his section of the state. He was born in Chickasaw county, March 24, 1859, and is a son of Terrence and Mary (Galligan) Commerford, who were natives of Ireland. They were married, however, in Wisconsin, both having come with their respective families to the new world in early life, the father arriving in 1849 and the mother in 1850. They continued their residence in Wisconsin until 1854 and then removed to Iowa, settling in Utica township, Chickasaw county, at which period the homes in the township were widely scattered, the inhabitants being very few in number. Terrence Commerford homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land, whereon he built a log cabin and this continued to be the family residence for a number of years. He did his marketing in and hauled his grain to McGregor by ox team, it requiring a week to make the trip. The family shared in all of the hardships and privations incident to settlement upon the frontier and the father performed the arduous task of developing the wild land and converting it into a good farm. As the years passed he prospered and after some time he built a modern home and became owner of one of the well improved farm properties of his township. He also extended the boundaries of his place by additional purchase until he had two hundred and forty acres of land, of which he afterward donated fifteen acres to the Catholic church, and upon that tract has been erected the present handsome church edifice that now stands at Riley Ridge. Mr. Commerford died at the comparatively early age of fifty-four years, while his wife reached the very advanced age of eighty-five years.

P. J. Commerford was educated in the district schools, which he attended to the age of twelve years. His father died about that time and he and his brothers took up the active work of further cultivating and improving the home farm, upon which he lived until 1892, when he removed to Jerico and established his present mercantile